

**DELIBERATION NO 36 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)**  
**ON THE 2014 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Whereas the powers of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) in overseeing and coordinating the National Statistical System (NSS).

Whereas the specific powers of the Council "*To appraise the programme and budget of the statistical authorities' statistical activity (...)*".

Whereas the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017 approved by the Council, which set out the major objectives and challenges for the NSS in the next **5 years**.

**Whereas the** Council's activities in 2014 are expected to focus on ongoing implementation of these strategic guidelines, by achieving, inter alia, the following objectives:

- Submission to the Government of (i) a draft revision of the current Law governing the National Statistical System, taking into consideration guidelines set forth at national and European level and (ii) a legislative proposal supporting institutionalisation of a single identification number for local units;
- Implementation of mechanisms to use the Single Statistical Units File within the framework of the National Statistical System;
- Continued promotion of widened reflection aimed at identifying and adequately applying measures conducive to implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period, notably as regards intensification of the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes, design and implementation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the key principles of the National Statistical System at the level of all System structures and intensified use of communication channels to promote initiatives to enhance statistical literacy;
- Ongoing modernisation and optimisation of processes associated with the Council's internal operation.

Whereas the statistical authorities' Statistical Activity Plans for 2014 reflect the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017, notably as regards high priority assigned to initiatives that:

- Ensure quality statistical production, a more modern statistical process, a more intensive use of official statistics and active promotion of statistical literacy;
- Meet, in the context of the current budgetary constraints, the growing demand for statistical data as a key instrument for timely and accurate analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, informed decision-making by economic agents, and sustained assessment of the various policies;
- Contribute to strengthen institutional cooperation, notably through specific projects that are relevant to the National and European Statistical System, such as initiatives aiming at a more intensive and efficient use of already existing information and greater use of administrative data for

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statistical purposes. There is thus a reduction in statistical production costs and in the burden on respondents, namely citizens and enterprises.

Whereas the 2014 Work Programme of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers falls within the scope of the European Strategic Plan for 2013-2017 in the field of statistical production and in the EU Statistical Programme for 2014 forming an integral part thereof, and likewise Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan seeks to respond to the strategic objectives defined at the level of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).

Whereas almost all the statistical activities envisaged therein are obligations undertaken by the Portuguese State in the context of the European Union.

Whereas:

- EU law prevails over the Member States' legal order;
- A regulation is a legal act as set forth in Article 288 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with general application, binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States' legal order;
- The provisions of the Treaties governing the European Union and the rules laid down by EU institutions in the exercise of their powers shall be applicable in the national legal order, pursuant to EU law, in compliance with the basic principles of a democratic, constitutional State, pursuant to Article 8 (4) of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic (2004 wording).

Whereas also the 2014 Work Programme of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers complies with the commitment to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice, and Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan observes the principles enshrined in the Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks.

Whereas "Principle 3 – Adequacy of Resources" of the European Statistics Code of Practice establishes that *"the resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European statistics requirements"*.

Pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 (g) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May and to Article 10 (3) (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, and following a favourable opinion of the Standing Session of Statistical Coordination (*Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* in Portuguese), **at its plenary session on 16 December 2013 the Council decided the following:**

1. **To approve** the Council's 2014 Work Programme
2. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the statistical authorities' statistical activity plans for 2014
3. **To approve** the 2014 Summary of Statistical Activity for the National Statistical System, in annex to this deliberation
4. **To approve** the release of these documents through a media information note

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**The Council, although acknowledging** Statistics Portugal's rigorous management, stresses the need to adopt rationalisation measures for cost containment.

**However**, it considers that such measures will prove insufficient, and thus **expresses its concerns about the cut in the allocation of financial resources envisaged in the 2014 State Budget for the execution of Statistics Portugal's Work Programme and recommends that the Government** provides Statistics Portugal with the instrumental resources for it to continue to comply with its national and European statistical obligations.

**The Council** also **warns that**, should this not occur, **compliance with the obligations** required of Portugal by EU legislation **will be compromised**, as well as **user rights** to access official statistics as a public good. Hence, **the good repute of Statistics Portugal, the National Statistical System and the Portuguese State at the statistical level will be jeopardised.**

Lisbon, 16 December 2013

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Alda de Caetano Carvalho*

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Maria da Graça Fernandes Caeiro Bento*

## 2014 WORK PROGRAMME | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

### | SUMMARY |

The Work Programme of the National Statistical System (NSS) for 2014 is formed by this Summary, which highlights the main objectives and activities to be achieved in 2014, and the Work Programmes of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) and the statistical authorities,<sup>1</sup> with greater detail in the respective areas of competence.

These Programmes present the objectives and actions that will be developed by the above entities at national and European level respectively:

- In the exercise of the powers set forth in Article 13 of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May and in accordance with the guidelines provided for under Article 3 (2) of said Law through the Council's Deliberations and Recommendations;
- Of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period;
- Of the EU statistical programme for 2014, that integrates the five-year European strategic planning for the same period, contained in European Union legal acts that are imposing in terms of statistical production with inevitable repercussions on Member State's statistical activities. When carrying out their statistical activities, Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers will consistently privilege observance of the guidelines laid down in said framework documents, which are materialised in reporting obligations and methodological requirements imposed by national and European legislation;
- In activity programmes prepared at the level of the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB);

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira. Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for strictly regional statistics and entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal within the scope of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May: Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Maritime Safety and Services (Ministry of Agriculture and Sea), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy), Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics (Ministry of Education and Science), Directorate-General for Justice Policy (Ministry of Justice) and the Strategy and Planning Office of the Ministry of Economy, whose protocol for the delegation of powers is under negotiation.

Pursuant to Article 22 of the NSS Law, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira participate in the production of national official statistics as delegations of Statistics Portugal.

- And also in compliance with the commitment to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks.

2014 will mark a continuing pursuit of initiatives to identify and adequately apply measures leading to implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017.

Hence, the Council's activities in 2014 will prioritise enhanced implementation of the strategic guidelines defined, promoting reflection within its structures (Plenary session and Sections) and in collaboration with entities allowing for identification of suitable measures, notably as regards the ongoing process to modernise and optimise the Council's internal operation, aiming at greater efficiency and effectiveness of its deliberations and recommendations.

In their 2014 work programmes statistical authorities have established a series of objectives targeted at continuing to ensure quality statistical production, a more modern statistical process, a more intensive use of official statistics and active promotion of statistical literacy.

In the context of the current budgetary constraints, priority will be given to meeting the growing demand for statistical data as a key instrument for timely and accurate analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, informed decision-making by economic agents and sustained assessment of the various policies.

Statistical authorities will also pay special attention to the strengthening of institutional cooperation, notably through specific projects that are relevant to the National and European Statistical System, such as initiatives aimed at a more intensive and efficient use of already existing information and a greater use of administrative data for statistical purposes. There is thus a reduction in statistical production costs and in the burden on respondents, namely citizens and enterprises.

### **A. Statistical Council's main objectives and activities for 2014**

#### **Objectives**

Taking as a reference the Vision set out for the NSS in 2017, the Council's activities in 2014 will focus on ongoing implementation of the strategic guidelines defined for the next five years in the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017, through achievement of the following objectives:

1. To prepare and submit to the Government a draft revision of the current Law governing the National Statistical System, taking into consideration guidelines set forth at European and national level
2. To promote widened reflection aimed at identifying and adequately applying measures conducive to implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period
3. To promote initiatives aimed at facilitating the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, ensuring appropriate quality standards, efficiency gains and a reduction of the statistical burden on respondents

## Priority activities and areas

Hence, in accordance with the objectives defined and within its powers, the Council's activities in 2014 will focus in particular on intervention in the following strategic areas:

- . Submission to the Government of a draft revision of the current Law governing the National Statistical System;
- . Submission to the Government of a legislative proposal supporting institutionalisation of a single identification number for local units;
- . Approval of the Typology of Urban Areas based on the 2011 Census;
- . Implementation of mechanisms to use the Single Statistical Units File within the scope of the National Statistical System;
- . Approval of ISCED 2011 (International Standard Classification of Education) for use in the NSS;
- . Approval of the Classification of the Functions of the Government;
- . Monitoring of European legislation within the framework of "Economic Governance of the European Union" and its impact within the European Statistical System;
- . Promotion of initiatives targeted at:
  - (i) warning entities holding administrative data about the legal obligation of data release for the production of official statistics;
  - (ii) allowing statistical authorities to intervene from the start in the design of mechanisms that originate administrative data, so as to guarantee that these may be used for statistical purposes, notably in terms of quality.
- . Design and implementation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the key principles of the National Statistical System at the level of all NSS structures;
- . Monitoring of the implications of changes in ESA2010 to the Portuguese national accounts;
- . Monitoring of the implications of changes related to the adoption of the sixth edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual;
- . Monitoring of implementation of the MIP – Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure;
- . Reinforcement of monitoring mechanisms, in collaboration with the competent entities, as regards data reporting for preparation of general government accounts;
- . Intensification of the use of communication channels to promote initiatives to enhance statistical literacy;
- . Organisation of events and other initiatives to foster communication with society.

## **B. Main objectives of statistical authorities for 2014**

### **Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers**

**Statistics Portugal's 2014 planning has the following underlying objectives (effectiveness, efficiency and quality) as envisaged in its Assessment and Accountability Framework:**

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1. To consolidate the supply of official statistics and increase their accessibility
2. To enhance statistical literacy within the society
3. To adequately prepare the Peer Review to the European Statistics Code of Practice
4. To maintain – subject to the availability of resources – (quality) statistical cooperation with CPLP countries
5. To continue introducing technologically more developed and respondent-friendly collection methods
6. To widen the use of administrative data for statistical purposes
7. To continue modernising statistical production support infrastructures
8. To release timely and quality official statistics that are relevant to society

**In the Work Programme of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers the following activities and facts are worthy of reference:**

### ***At the level of statistical production***

- Time Use Survey, in partnership with the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (depending on funding from the latter);
- Production and release of the 2014 well-being index for Portugal;
- European Social Survey (7<sup>th</sup> wave – 2014), in partnership with Instituto de Ciências Sociais (depending on funding from the latter);
- Start of release of national monthly estimates for the unemployment rate, in liaison with Eurostat;
- 2014 European Health Survey, in partnership with the National Health Institute Doutor Ricardo Jorge;
- Presentation of the Portuguese national accounts – base 2011;
- Presentation of the backward-extrapolated series of national accounts for the 1995/2009 period, consistent with the base 2011;
- Conclusion of the 2013 Farm Structure Survey;
- Launch of the business survey on goods export prospects.

### ***At the level of statistical dissemination***

- Release of demographic projections on the resident population, by age and gender, 2011-2060, for Portugal and its NUTS 2 regions;
- Anticipated release of the provisional results of the 2013 Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) for the first quarter of 2014, notably those needed for monitoring the Europa 2020 programme;
- Release of the results of the second edition of the Household Finance and Consumption Survey, in partnership with Banco de Portugal within the scope of the Eurosystem;
- Release of the results of the 2012 Community Innovation Survey (Directorate General of Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education and Science).

### ***At the level of:***

#### **External cooperation**

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- Ongoing active participation in the European Statistical System's structures to reinforce Portugal's international projection and its position within the European Union;
- Implementation of the "Programme for the empowerment of national statistical systems of Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste" – Phase 3 (2014)", approved by the CPLP Focal Points and funded by the Special Community Fund.

### ***Inter-institutional cooperation***

Promotion of inter-institutional dialogue with entities holding administrative data, for their use for statistical purposes, thus pursuing the improvement of their quality and the reduction of production costs and the statistical burden.

### **Banco de Portugal**

**Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan for 2014 is developed according to the objectives defined for Banco de Portugal's statistical tasks, within the framework of the Bank's strategic planning for the 2014-2016 period. These objectives translate into:**

1. Ensuring quality statistical compilation, based on efficient collaboration with data suppliers and observance of the strictest international standards;
2. Developing efficient management of microeconomic databases, namely the Securities Statistics Integrated System, the Central Credit Register and the Central Balance-Sheet Database, in terms of their use in statistical compilation and the provision of services to the community;
3. Promoting statistical dissemination that fully complies with the commitments assumed with the European Central Bank (ECB) and other national and international organisations, so as to fully meet user needs.

In parallel, **Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan for 2014 will seek to face the challenges posed by strategic planning, the following actions assuming a special role:**

- To bring statistics into line with the new methodological concepts in international manuals, whose implementation is forecast for 2014;
- To update long series for the Portuguese economy, based on said methodological change;
- To develop training and dissemination actions relating to the new methodological manuals;
- To start statistical use within the new compilation system for balance of payments and international investment position statistics;
- To start statistical use within the new compilation system for financial national accounts;
- To reinforce integration of the different statistical compilation systems, based on crossing and exploiting information from microdatabases and using Business Intelligence solutions;
- To develop a microdata research centre based on the exploitation of data managed by Banco de Portugal;
- To make contributions to the Presidency of the European Committee of Central Balance-Sheet Data Offices, within the scope of this Committee's activity related to the analysis of non-financial corporations, based on the collection, treatment and dissemination of economic and financial



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- data by the different central balance-sheet data offices and to the development of the European database, BACH (Bank for the Accounts of Companies Harmonised);
- To cooperate with Statistics Portugal in the implementation of the MIP (Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure);
  - To implement the new revision policy for Banco de Portugal's statistics;
  - To coordinate work related to Portugal's adherence to the SDDS Plus;
  - To develop Banco de Portugal's Statistics Website aimed at providing new solutions for access to statistical contents released by the Bank on the Portuguese economy;
  - To organise initiatives to release statistics under the responsibility of Banco de Portugal, notably seminars and training courses addressed to the main user groups, i.e. financial system, universities and media.

### **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores**

**The 2014 planning of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores relies on the following strategic objectives, as enshrined in the Assessment and Accountability Framework:**

1. To ensure that the needs of the users of information produced by the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores are met and to deepen knowledge on these users in terms of their characteristics, satisfaction regarding available information and future needs
2. To ensure that the Region's statistical production is rationalised and efficient
3. To ensure a quality data production process
4. To harness staff skills

**The Work Programme of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores highlights the following:**

#### ***At the level of statistical production***

- Intra-regional cohesion indicator system (Portuguese acronym: SICIR) and intra-regional development synthetic indicator (Portuguese acronym: ISDIR);
- Coincident indicator;
- Outflows of main dairy products;
- Outflows of fresh fish;
- Regional horticulture survey.

#### ***At the level of external cooperation***

- Increase in statistical cooperation agreements, especially under new regional projects;
- Conclusion and release of results of projects carried out within the scope of the transnational cooperation programme MAC 2007-2013, in partnership with the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira and ISTAC (the Statistical Institute of the Canary Islands), specifically METAMAC (statistical data and metadata integrated system of Macaronesia) and CONTRIMAC (quarterly accounts of Macaronesia), whose deadline for conclusion has been extended to March 2014.

## **At the level of dissemination**

- Start of release of the results of the CONTRIMAC and METAMAC projects;
- Update and revamp of the Regional Statistical Office's website;
- Organisation of half-yearly workshops at the Regional Statistical Office's new facilities.

## **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira**

**The 2014 planning of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira relies on the following strategic objectives, as enshrined in the Assessment and Accountability Framework:**

1. To consolidate the supply of official statistics to be released
2. To enhance statistical literacy within the society
3. To guarantee specialised training and professional development for the staff of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira
4. To intensify the use of collection methods defined by Statistics Portugal
5. To extend cooperation and the use of administrative data for statistical purposes with entities with statistical activities in the Region
6. To cooperate with Statistics Portugal in the preparation of the Peer Review to the European Statistics Code of Practice
7. To release timely and quality official statistics that are relevant to society
8. To improve dissemination contents by intensifying the use of new, more user-friendly technologies

**The 2014 Work Programme of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira highlights the following activities:**

- Production and release on the Regional Directorate's website of annual and infra-annual information, as well as time series in areas with insufficient statistical coverage, with recourse to administrative sources, where possible;
- Promotion of statistical literacy within the school community;
- Participation in the preparatory work for the second round of the Peer Review to the European Statistics Code of Practice, under the guidance of Statistics Portugal;
- Implementation of mechanisms allowing for assessment of the level of satisfaction of official statistics users;
- Implementation of the Regional Directorate's new website, improving its use and accessibility, notably via mobile devices;
- The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira also intends to enhance the spatial dimension of official statistics, with recourse to the geographic referencing statistical infrastructure, in production and dissemination activities;
- Projects carried out within the scope of the transnational cooperation programme MAC 2007-2013, specifically METAMAC (statistical data and metadata integrated system of Macaronesia) and

CONTRIMAC (quarterly accounts of Macaronesia), are expected to be concluded in 2014, due to the recent extension of the project's final deadline to 31 March 2014.

### **C. Resources**

Pursuant to the NSS Law, the financial costs of maintaining the Statistical Council are borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

For the development of actions included in Work Programmes, statistical authorities will rely on the financial means envisaged in their annual budgets and on the human and material resources available for that purpose.

#### **Financial resources**

The following financial resources are allocated to the National Statistical System – functioning of the Council and statistical activity of statistical authorities:

- The **Statistical Council's** forecast operational costs for 2014 amount to €333,4 thousand (borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal);
- The **cost of executing Statistics Portugal's Work Programme** amounts to €32,675,000. This does not consider execution of the legal mechanisms being implemented (voluntary redundancy of technical experts) and to be implemented following approval of the draft State Budget Law for 2014 and other legal mechanisms (reduction of compensations; voluntary redundancy of senior experts and re-qualification of workers). This cost incorporates the wages of 666 staff members: 357 and 309 senior and technical experts respectively.

However, implementation of said mechanisms is estimated to eventually reduce said cost to approximately €30,000,000. This amount, compared with that presented by the responsible authority in the draft State Budget Law for 2014,<sup>2</sup> implies a deficit of around 20% and will cover expenses on wages, interviewers and day-to-day operation only up to the end of the third quarter;

- **Entities with delegated powers** foresee to allocate €4.99 million to statistical activities;
- The **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores** foresees a €1.7 million budget;
- The **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira** foresees a €945 thousand budget.

#### **Human resources**

The following human resources will be allocated to NSS activities in 2014:

- **Council Secretariat**, composed of **7 individuals**, to support Council activities, which involve a total of around 300 participants (Council members and other Working Group participants);

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<sup>2</sup> Under discussion as at the date of submission of the preliminary draft Work Programme to the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination.

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- **Statistical authorities**, to carry out the statistical activities planned for 2014, **with 972 staff members**, distributed as follows:
  - Statistics Portugal – **666**<sup>3</sup> (plus 500 service providers – interviewers)
  - Entities with delegated powers – **133**
  - Banco de Portugal – **83**
  - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **48**
  - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **42**

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<sup>3</sup> Includes resources allocated to the Council Secretariat's activities.